



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 5

April 9, 2012

Bernice North & Sue Decker  
Co-Chairs of the Neighborhood Committee  
Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

Dear Ms. Decker and Ms. North,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding youth-related issues. As a former member of the Montgomery County Board of Education (BOE) and the Chair of the Council's Education (ED) Committee, these issues are my highest priority. Last year, I championed the increase in funding for the Police Department in the Silver Spring Central Business District. In addition, the Council was able to fund the school resource officer (SRO) program at a base level in FY12.

I also believe strongly in preparing tomorrow's workforce. On March 13, the Office of Legislative Oversight released the report on Alternative Education in Montgomery County that I requested. On March 27, the Council took a straw vote to uphold the ED Committee's and BOE's schedule for the modernization of Wheaton and Thomas Edison High Schools. I have also advocated strongly on behalf of Montgomery College. These initiatives are investments in our economy and help ensure that our youth are productive members of our future community.

Positive youth development programs are another critical component. Last week, the ED Committee received an update on the Truancy Court program, which I initiated in partnership with the University of Baltimore's Law School, State's Attorney's Office and the school system. This program has continued to have a positive impact on the lives of these students, and I will look to expand it in the future. I am also encouraged at the increased funding for these initiatives in the County Executive's FY13 Recommended Operating Budget and look forward to the Council's public hearings and review of the budget.

Thank you again for your advocacy. I appreciate you taking the time to share your comments with me. Your views are important and will continue to help the Council in its deliberations on matters that affect the residents of Montgomery County. Please feel free to continue to contact my office at 240-777-7960 with any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Ervin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Valerie Ervin  
Councilmember – District 5

c: Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Services Center  
Kathy Stevens, Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board